a के संतुलित प्रयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कृषि मंत्रालय "उर्वरक के संतुलित व समेकित प्रयोग" की केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित योजना तथा कम खपत वाले तथा वर्षासिंचित क्षेत्रों में उर्व्रक प्रयोग के विकास की राष्ट्रीय परियोजना क्रियान्वित कर रहा हैं। इन योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत, आर्गेनिकों के प्रयोग को बढ़ावा देने के लिए जैविक खाद पर प्रशिक्षण देने, कम्पोस्ट यूनिटें स्थापित करने तथा कम्पोस्ट खाद बनाने के उन्न्त तरीकों के प्रदर्शन संबंधी कार्य शुरू किए गए हैं। गाय के गोबर, फसल के बचेए अवशेष, आदि के उपयोग की उचितए प्रौद्यौगिकियों के विकास के लिए, भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद ने देश में राज्य कृषि विश्वविद्यायों के अन्तर्गत सातए स्थानों में आर्गेनिक अवशेष के माइक्रोबायल सड़ाव तथा शहर के कूड़ा-करकट के पुनरावर्तन की अखिल भारती समन्वित अनुसंधान परियोजना स्थापित की हैं।

**Procurement of Foodgrains for Mid-Day Meals through PDS**

2018. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly introduced midday meal scheme for primary school children is operational and how many schools are to be covered in the initial phase;

(b) whether the requirements of foodgrains for this scheme are proposed to be drawn through the Public Distribution System;

(c) whether Government are aware that the Public Distribution System is already stretched and will not be able to handle this additional burden; and

(d) if so, whether government would consider appointing any other Central Agency to handle foodgrains distribution meant for mid-day meal scheme and other public nutrition scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION) (DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI): (a) All States and Union Territories have informed that National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education is operational in their States/UTs. About 2.25 lakh Schools are being covered under the Programme in the initial phase during 1995-96.

(b) to (d) The foodgrains are being made available to the local bodies from the nearest FCI godowns. The States have the flexibility to decide the modalities of transportation and delivery to the Panchayats and Nagarpalikas.

**Lower Growth Rate of Foodgrains Production**

2019. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether rabi and kharif foodgrains production for 1995-96 estimated at 191 million tonnes is showing a lower growth rate of 1.6 per cent as compared to 2.7 per cent in 1994-95;

(b) whether the overall agricultural growth rate is also lower than last year's;

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by Government to remove the effect of negative subsidies and other distortions adversely affecting the agricultural sector; and

(e) whether Government propose to free domestic trade in farm output, remove export restrictions and bring domestic procurement prices at par with international prices; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) Firm estimates of foodgrain production for 1995-96 are not yet available since the. sowing of Rabi crops is still in progress. However, as per preliminary estimates the foodgrains production in 1995-96 may not show any significant growth over that in 1994-95 due to shortfall in kharif production owing to erratic monsoon. This